

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC

ORDER NO. 5279

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served February 23, 1998

Investigation of INTERSTATE)
TAXICAB RATES for Service within)
the Metropolitan District and)
Related Matters)

Case No. MP-98-04

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact¹ provides:

This Act shall apply to the transportation for hire by any carrier of persons between any points in the Metropolitan District, including but not limited to --

* * *

the rates, charges, regulations, and minimum insurance requirements for taxicabs and other vehicles that perform a bona fide taxicab service, where the taxicab or other vehicle --

(i) has a seating capacity of 9 persons or less, including the driver; and

(ii) provides transportation from one signatory to another within the Metropolitan District.²

* * *

The Commission shall prescribe reasonable rates for transportation by taxicab, only when --

(i) the trip is between a point in the jurisdiction of one signatory and a point in the jurisdiction of another signatory; and

(ii) both points are within the Metropolitan District.

The fare or charge for taxicab transportation may be calculated on a mileage basis, a zone basis, or on any other basis approved by the Commission.

The Commission may not require the installation of a taximeter in any taxicab when a taximeter is not permitted or required by the jurisdiction licensing and otherwise regulating the operation and service of the taxicab.

A person licensed by a signatory to own or operate a taxicab shall comply with Commission regulations

¹ Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact, Pub. L. No. 101-505, 104 Stat. 1300 (1990) (codified at D.C. Code Ann. § 1-2411 (Supp. 1991); Md. Trans. Code Ann. § 10-203 (Supp. 1991); Va. Code Ann. §§ 56-529, 530 (Michie Supp. 1991)) (originally enacted as Pub. L. No. 86-794, 74 Stat. 1031 (1960), as amended by Pub. L. No. 87-767, 76 Stat. 765 (1962)).

² Compact, Title II, Article XI, § 1(b).

regarding maintenance of a surety bond, insurance policy, self-insurance qualification, or other security or agreement in an amount that the Commission may require to pay a final judgment for bodily injury or death of a person, or for loss or damage to property of another, resulting from the operation, maintenance, or use of a taxicab in performing transportation subject to this Act.³

All taxicab licensing and rate-setting jurisdictions in the Metropolitan District,⁴ except the District of Columbia, require their taxicabs to be equipped with taximeters that use a mileage-time basis for determining local fares. Taxicabs licensed and regulated by the District of Columbia are not equipped with taximeters and use a zone basis to determine local fares.

"Where feasible and appropriate, the Commission has adopted the local taxicab rates as the interstate rates. Thus, we require locally licensed and regulated metered taxicabs to use their meters for fare determination on interstate taxicab trips."⁵ Locally prescribed incidental charges generally apply, except that so-called "snow emergency rates" do not apply to interstate trips⁶ and a uniform charge has been adopted for each passenger in excess of one, with an exception for children.⁷

³ Compact, Title II, Article XI, § 18.

⁴ The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit District, referred to as the Metropolitan District, includes: the District of Columbia; the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church of the Commonwealth of Virginia; Arlington County and Fairfax County of the Commonwealth of Virginia, the political subdivisions located within those counties, and that portion of Loudoun County, Virginia, occupied by the Washington Dulles International Airport; Montgomery County and Prince George's County of the State of Maryland, and political subdivisions located within those counties; and all other cities nor or hereafter existing in Maryland or Virginia within the geographic area bounded by the outer boundaries of the combined area of those counties, cities, and airports. (Compact, Title I, Article I.) Solely for purposes of taxicab regulation, the Metropolitan District also includes that portion of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, occupied by the Baltimore-Washington International Airport. (Compact, Title II, Article XI, § 2(a)).

⁵ Order No. 2039, served September 26, 1979, citing Order No. 67, served October 9, 1961.

⁶ Order No. 2067, served December 6, 1979, and Order No. 2334, served May 7, 1982.

⁷ Order No. 2213, served April 13, 1981.

District of Columbia taxicabs, however, operate on a zone basis which is not readily adaptable to interstate use. For these taxicabs the Commission has implemented a system of interstate rates based on odometer mileage.⁸

The Commission also prescribes interstate rates for Washington-Dulles Transportation, Ltd. (WDT), which has the taxicab concession at Washington Dulles International Airport. These taxicabs use taximeters.⁹

As an enforcement mechanism in the event such operations should occur,¹⁰ the Commission also prescribes interstate taxicab rates for taxicab service within the Metropolitan District in taxicabs not licensed and regulated by any political subdivision located within the Metropolitan District or for which taxicab rates have not been specifically established by the Commission.¹¹ These rates apply to operations that are excluded from the ambit of Order No. 2559, served May 24, 1984.¹²

The Commission is aware that a number of the local licensing and rate-setting jurisdictions have increased their taxicab rates since the above-described interstate taxicab rates were prescribed. For most metered taxicabs such new local rates automatically become their new interstate rates. However, it takes specific action by the Commission to adjust the interstate rates for District of Columbia taxicabs and others such as WDT.

The Commission institutes this investigation on its own initiative to determine what, if any, changes should be made with regard to the rates, charges, regulations, and minimum insurance requirements for taxicabs providing interstate transportation within the Metropolitan District. The Commission invites proposals with regard to these matters. Such proposals should be specific and supported with detailed justification for any proposed changes.

⁸ These rates were established most recently by Order No. 3938, served May 13, 1992, as amended by Order No. 4197, served November 2, 1993; Order No. 4308, served June 1, 1994; and Order No. 4973, served November 19, 1996. The current rates are embodied in Appendix A to Order No. 4973, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein.

⁹ These rates were established most recently by Order No. 3938, served May 13, 1992, and are embodied in Appendix C to that order, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein.

¹⁰ Order No. 1295, served December 28, 1973.

¹¹ These rates were established most recently by Order No. 3938, served May 13, 1992, and are embodied in Appendix D to that order, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein.

¹² Order No. 2559, served May 24, 1984, page 16, ordering paragraph 3 and discussion at pages 14 and 15. Also see Commission Regulation No. 51-09.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:

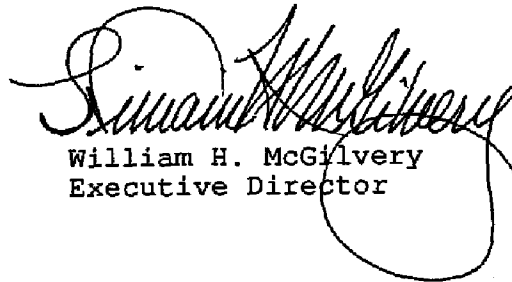
1. That an investigation is hereby instituted to determine what, if any, changes should be made with regard to the rates, charges, regulations, and minimum insurance requirements for taxicabs providing interstate transportation within the Metropolitan District.

2. That the Commission staff shall cause notice of this investigation to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Metropolitan District on or before March 2, 1998.

3. That the Commission staff shall file a report and analysis no later than March 23, 1998.

4. That any person desiring to file a written proposal and justification shall file an original and four copies with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission, 1828 L Street, N.W., Suite 703, Washington, DC 20036-5104, no later than March 23, 1998.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION; COMMISSIONERS ALEXANDER, LIGON, AND MILLER:



William H. McGilvery
Executive Director

Appendix A to Order No. 4973
Effective Wednesday, November 20, 1996, at 12:01 a.m.

INTERSTATE TAXICAB RATES
FOR TAXICAB SERVICE WITHIN THE
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT DISTRICT
(in taxicabs licensed and regulated by the District of Columbia)

\$2.00	First 1/2 mile or part thereof
.70	Each additional 1/2 mile or part thereof
1.00	Each additional passenger in pre-formed party (provided, however, that one child five (5) years of age or younger shall be transported without charge for each individual of at least sixteen (16) years of age in a pre-formed party)

Hand baggage, including large bags of groceries or articles of similar size, in excess of one piece per passenger shall be charged for at the rate of 50¢ for each such piece. Briefcases and parcels of comparable size shall not be considered as hand baggage.

Trunks or similar large articles shall be charged for at the rate of \$2.00 each. A trunk is herein described as a piece of baggage having a minimum dimension or cubic content in excess of 32 inches by 18 inches by 9 inches or 3 cubic feet, respectively.

The charge for personal service¹ shall be \$1.50; taxicab service in response to a telephone call, \$1.50 in addition to all other authorized charges; dismissal of a taxicab without using it after response to a telephone call, \$1.50 in addition to the charge for responding.

The charge for waiting time² shall be:
Less than 5 min. -- no charge
5 min. to 9 min., 59 sec. -- \$1.50
10 min. to 14 min., 59 sec. -- \$3.00
1/4 hr. or more -- prorated at \$20/hr.

There shall be a surcharge of \$1.00 per trip for trips commencing between 7 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. and between 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except District of Columbia or federal holidays.

There shall be no additional charge for service during snow emergency periods.

¹A personal service is defined as any service requested by a passenger which requires the taxicab driver to leave the vicinity of the taxicab.

²Waiting time shall include time consumed while taxicab is waiting and available to the passenger at the place to which it has been called. No charge shall be made for premature response to a call. Waiting time shall also apply to stops en route when made at passenger's request.

Appendix C to Order No. 3938

INTERSTATE TAXICAB RATES
FOR TAXICAB SERVICE PROVIDED BY
WASHINGTON-DULLES TRANSPORTATION, LTD.
WITHIN THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT DISTRICT

- \$1.50 First 1/7 mile or fraction
- .20 Each additional 1/7 mile or fraction
- .20 Each one minute twenty seconds waiting time (\$9.00 an hour)
- 1.00 Each additional passenger in pre-formed party (provided, however, that one child five (5) years of age or younger shall be transported without charge for each individual of at least sixteen (16) years of age in a pre-formed party)

Hand baggage, including large bags of groceries or articles of similar size, in excess of one piece per passenger shall be charged for at the rate of 15¢ for each such piece. Briefcases and parcels of comparable size shall not be considered as hand baggage.

Trunks or similar large articles shall be charged for at the rate of \$1.25 each. A trunk is herein described as a piece of baggage having a minimum dimension or cubic content in excess of 32 inches by 18 inches by 9 inches or 3 cubic feet, respectively.

The charge for personal service shall be 65¢. A personal service is defined as any service requested by a passenger which requires the taxicab driver to leave the vicinity of the taxicab.

There shall be no additional charge for service during traffic rush hours or snow emergency periods.

Appendix D to Order No. 3938
Effective Monday, June 1, 1992, at 4:00 a.m.

INTERSTATE TAXICAB RATES
FOR TAXICAB SERVICE WITHIN THE
WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT DISTRICT
(in taxicabs not licensed and regulated by any jurisdiction or political
subdivision located within the Metropolitan District or for which
taxicab rates have not been specifically established by WMATC)

\$2.00	First 1/2 mile or part thereof
.70	Each additional 1/2 mile or part thereof
1.00	Each additional passenger in pre-formed party (provided, however, that one child five (5) years of age or younger shall be transported without charge for each individual of at least sixteen (16) years of age in a pre-formed party)

Hand baggage, including large bags of groceries or articles of similar size, in excess of one piece per passenger shall be charged for at the rate of 15¢ for each such piece. Briefcases and parcels of comparable size shall not be considered as hand baggage.

Trunks or similar large articles shall be charged for at the rate of \$1.25 each. A trunk is herein described as a piece of baggage having a minimum dimension or cubic content in excess of 32 inches by 18 inches by 9 inches or 3 cubic feet, respectively.

The charge for personal service shall be 65¢;¹ taxicab service in response to a telephone call, \$1.50 in addition to all other authorized charges; dismissal of a taxicab without using it after response to a telephone call, \$1.50 in addition to the charge for responding; waiting time,² 75¢ for each 5 minutes or fraction thereof.

There shall be a surcharge of \$1.00 per trip commencing between 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, for service originating in the District of Columbia.

There shall be no additional charge for service during snow emergency period.

¹A personal service is defined as any service requested by a passenger which requires the taxicab driver to leave the vicinity of the taxicab.

²Waiting time shall include time consumed while taxicab is waiting and available to the passenger beginning 5 minutes after the time of arrival at the place to which it has been called. No charge shall be made for premature response to a call.